

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health  
108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Olivia Hunter

DATE: December 30, 2005

RE: Criminal Justice Involvement Before and After Substance Abuse Services

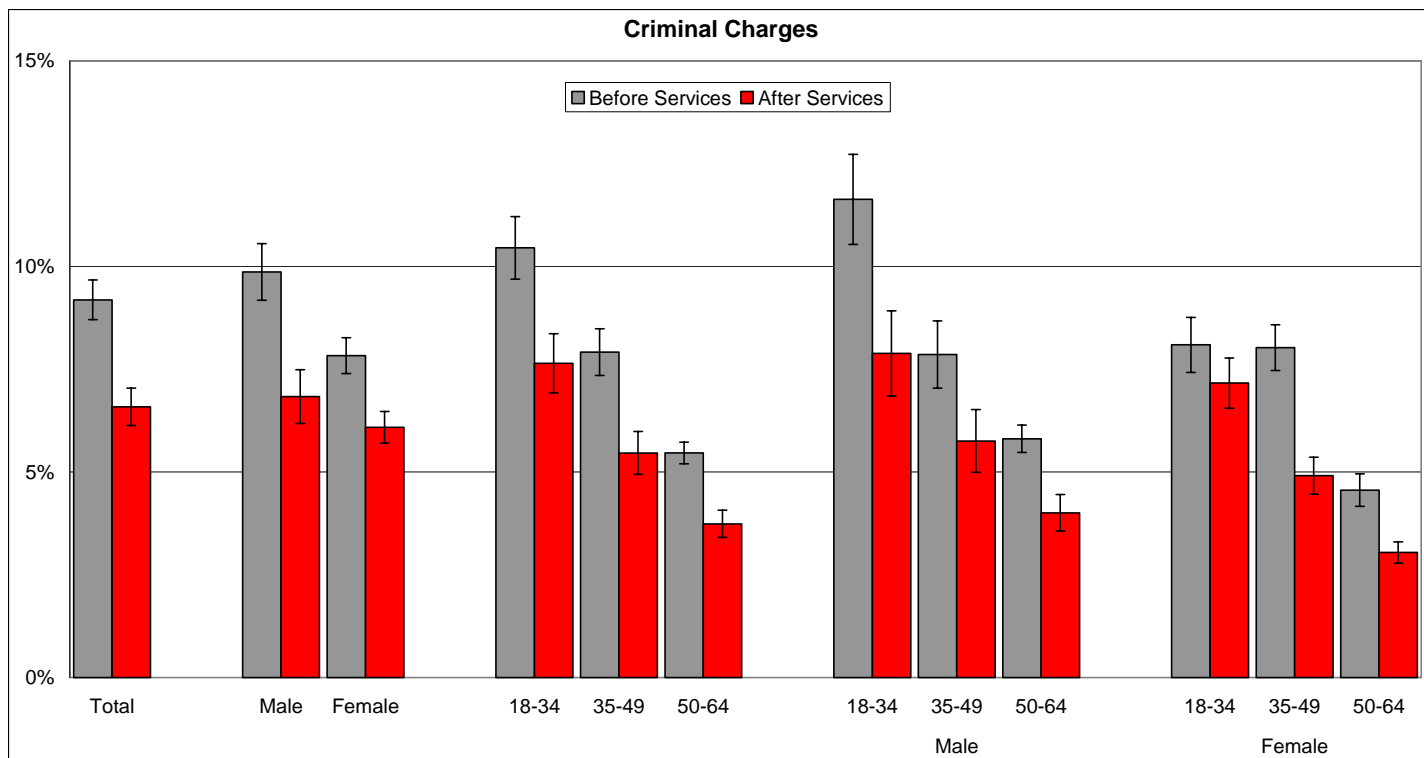
Decreased criminal justice involvement is one of the ten National Outcome Measures currently being implemented by the US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This week's brief report provides measures of change in criminal justice involvement for adults who received public substance abuse services in Vermont during FY2004. The subjects of this analysis include all adults who received substance abuse services during FY2004 from DMH or ADAP designated community treatment programs. This analysis was originally conducted for the Epidemiology Workgroup of Vermont's substance abuse Strategic Prevention Framework Grant.

Change in criminal justice involvement is measured by comparing two rates: the rate at which these individuals were charged with a crime in a Vermont District Court during the three months before the treatment period and the rate at which these same individuals were charged with a crime in a Vermont District Court during the three months after the treatment period. This analysis used anonymous extracts from the ADAP Treatment Episode database and the DMH Monthly Service Report database for the treatment period, in conjunction with anonymous extracts from the Vermont District Court database for the three months before and the three months after the treatment period. Because these data sets do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of people in the treatment data set who were also represented in each of the district court data sets.

As you will see, the proportion of substance abuse service recipients who were charged with a crime decreased by 28% during the study period. The reduction in criminal justice involvement was greater for men than for women (-31% vs. -22%) and was greater for service recipients in the older age groups (-31% and -32%) than for young adults (-27%). Among age/gender groups, women in the 18-34 age group had the least reduction in criminal justice involvement (-11%) and women in the 35-49 age group had the greatest reduction in criminal justice involvement (-39%).

We look forward to your comments and questions regarding this analysis, as well as suggestions for further analysis to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.863.7249.

# Criminal Justice Involvement Before and After Substance Abuse Services FY2004 CMHC and ADAP Substance Abuse Service Recipients



	Total	Gender		Age			Male Age			Female Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	18-34	35-49	50-64	18-34	35-49	50-64
Total Clients Served	# 5,840	3,892	1,948	3,385	1,980	475	2,256	1,291	344	1,128	688	132
	± 23	± 20	± 11	± 20	± 12	± 4	± 17	± 10	± 3	± 9	± 6	± 2
Charged Before Services	# 536	384	153	354	157	26	262	101	20	91	55	6
	± 28	± 27	± 8	± 26	± 11	± 1	± 25	± 11	± 1	± 8	± 4	± 1
	% 9%	10%	8%	10%	8%	5%	12%	8%	6%	8%	8%	5%
	± 0.5%	± 0.7%	± 0.4%	± 0.8%	± 0.6%	± 0.3%	± 1.1%	± 0.8%	± 0.3%	± 0.7%	± 0.6%	± 0.4%
Charged After Services	# 384	266	119	259	108	18	178	74	14	81	34	4
	± 26	± 25	± 7	± 24	± 10	± 2	± 23	± 10	± 2	± 7	± 3	± 0
	% 7%	7%	6%	8%	5%	4%	8%	6%	4%	7%	5%	3%
	± 0.5%	± 0.7%	± 0.4%	± 0.7%	± 0.5%	± 0.3%	± 1.0%	± 0.8%	± 0.4%	± 0.6%	± 0.4%	± 0.3%
% Reduction	% 28%	31%	22%	27%	31%	32%	32%	27%	31%	11%	39%	33%
	± 0.7%	± 1.0%	± 0.6%	± 1.0%	± 0.8%	± 0.4%	± 1.5%	± 1.1%	± 0.6%	± 0.9%	± 0.7%	± 0.5%

Analysis is based on extracts from the DMH Monthly Service Reports (MSR) database, the (ADAP) Treatment Episode database, and the Center for Justice Research Vermont District Court database. Each of these extracts included the date of birth, gender and county of residence of all individuals represented. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).

Reduction in criminal justice involvement is the percent change in the rate of criminal charging between the three months before and the three months after the treatment period.